

Daara
Development Academy



Enhancing Evidence Use, Communication, and Uptake in Sub-Saharan African Education: The Daara Development Academy Experience

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Sub-Saharan Africa's Learning Crisis Demands a New Approach

- ❑ Despite progress, learning outcomes remain alarmingly low.
- ❑ Disparities persist across gender, socioeconomic background, and location.
- ❑ Governments and funders have made significant efforts to address educational challenges, with substantial investments, but the problem persists.
- ❑ Local organizations are key, but face significant barriers to funding and influence

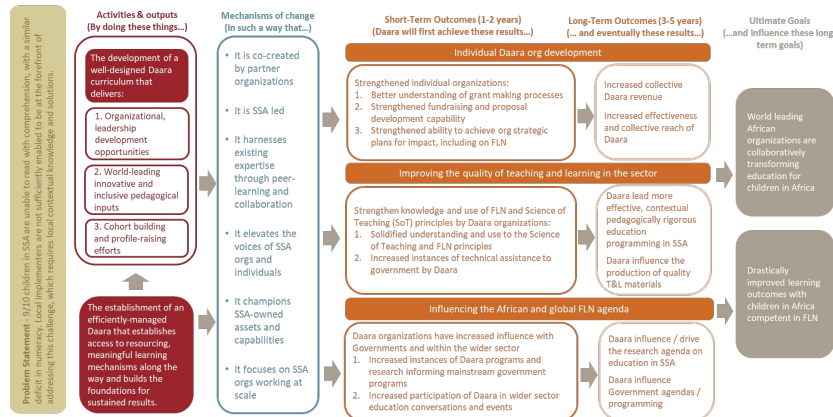


Daara Aims To Strengthen Local Implementers in SSA to Enhance their Efforts to Improve Learning Outcomes at Scale

Daara aims to strengthen highly proximate, FLN focused organisations in SSA so that they can transform learning outcomes for children in Africa

Daara members prioritised their main barriers to growth, which have informed the program's learning goals

The Daara curriculum is running from January to December 2024 including the following elements:



- 1 Building pedagogical excellence
- 2 Using and generating evidence
- 3 Moving successfully to scale
- 4 Managing talent to build the organization
- 5 Strengthening fundraising capability

- Learning Retreats
- Online Learning
- Fireside chats (funders / experts)
- Individual organizational funding
- Daara Innovation Fund
- Mentoring / coaching

Daara is being Co-created and Piloted by 11 organisations Drawn from 8 Countries Across West, East and Southern Africa

Organisations are **highly proximate**, and all involved in foundational learning in one or more countries, including Anglophone and Francophone Africa



Challenges in Evidence Use, Communication, and Uptake



Skills: Lack of expertise in research design, analysis, and communication.



Funding: Limited resources for research and dissemination.



Socio-economic: Limited access to technology and infrastructure.



Behavioral: Evidence hesitancy.



Collaboration: Difficulty in fostering partnerships between researchers and practitioners.



Policy Environment: Unfavorable policy contexts that hinder evidence-based decision-making



Strengthening the Capacity of Research and Implementing Organizations



Tailored capacity building: initiatives should be tailored to the specific needs and contexts of local organizations



Collaboration: Promote partnerships between researchers and practitioners.



Mentorship: Provide mentorship and training programs.



Infrastructure: Invest in research infrastructure and technology.



Policy Advocacy: Advocate for policies that support evidence-based decision-making.



Ownership: Empower local organizations to take the lead in capacity building.



Sustainability: Build sustainable capacity through long-term investments.



Networks: Foster networks of local organizations for knowledge sharing and collaboration.



Enhancing Funder Support for Research and Capacity Building



Flexible Funding Structures: Funders should offer flexible, long-term funding that allows organizations to invest in strengthening their internal capabilities, infrastructure, and leadership development, rather than focusing solely on project-based support.



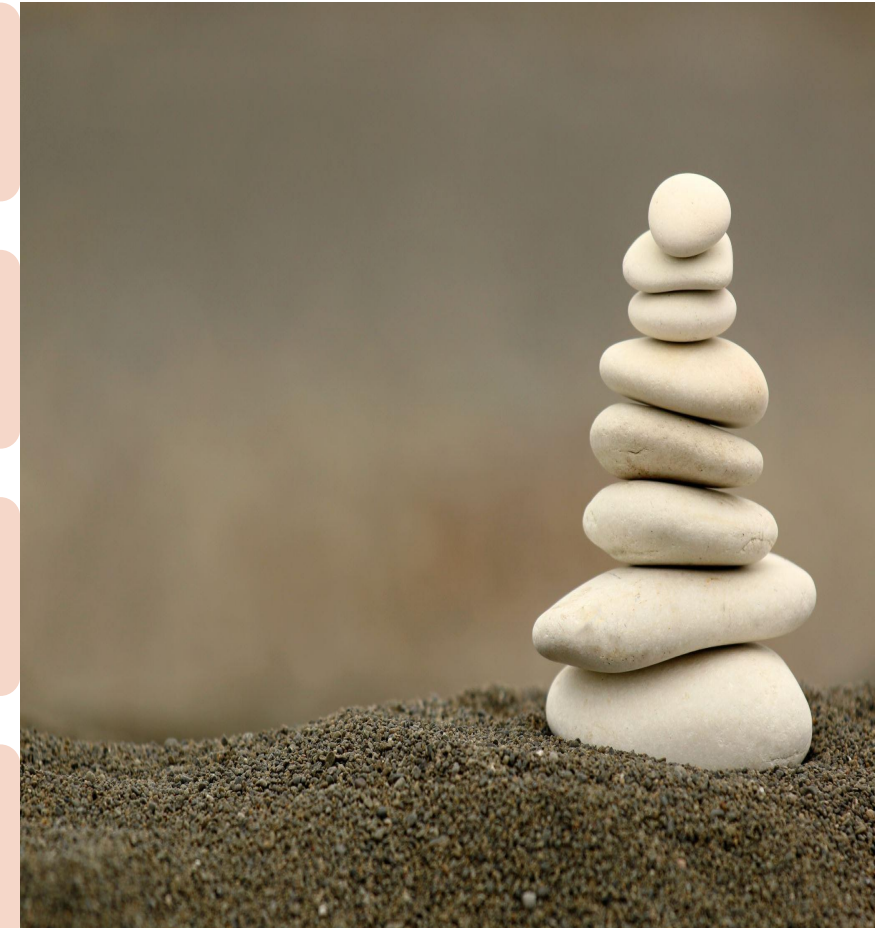
Equitable Partnerships: Funding models should be based on equitable partnerships, where local organizations have a voice in the design, implementation, and evaluation of initiatives, ensuring that the support aligns with their needs and priorities.



Capacity Building Support: In addition to research funding, funders should provide dedicated resources for capacity building, including training, mentorship, and technical assistance, to enable local organizations to lead high-quality, impactful research.



Institutional Strengthening: Funders should support the institutional strengthening of local research and implementing organizations, helping them develop robust systems, governance structures, and leadership capabilities to drive sustainable change.



Thank you for your
kind attention